

BECKER GOES TO DEATH IN ELECTRIC CHAIR

RUSSIAN FORCES MAY YIELD WARSAW

Probable Evacuation of Polish
Capital Indicated in Petro-
grad Dispatches.

KAISER PLANS STATE ENTRY

Capture of City Will Be Made
Occasion for Great Celebra-
tions in Germany.

Momentous Events in Warsaw Section

THERE are signs that momentous
events are happening around
Warsaw. If the evacuation of the
Polish capital has not already begun,
it is believed in many quarters that
the withdrawal of the Russians is
not far off.

At various points in Poland the
Russians continue to check the
Austro-Germans in their efforts to
encircle Warsaw, but the consensus
of views of the military critics of
the Petrograd newspapers seems to
point to the fact that the Russians
will not long be able to keep back
the tremendous pressure of the Teu-
tonic allies.

Neither the Germans nor the Aus-
trians claim any new advances along
the semicircular line which runs
from the Baltic provinces across the
frontier of Galicia. On the contrary
they admit that the Russians on the
Narew front, to the southeast of
Warsaw and in Northern Galicia, are
harrowing their way with heavy coun-
terattacks, and that the situation
north of the Niemen River and in
the southeast, in the Lublin district,
generally is unchanged.

Except for the capture of a new
German position in the Vosges, relative
calm prevails on the western
front from the sea to Alsace. In
the Italian theater both Austrians
and Italians are claiming slight vic-
tories.

LONDON, July 29.—The probable
evacuation of Warsaw and the whole
Polish salient by the Russians is in-
dicated in dispatches received from
Petrograd to-day. This decision would
come as a surprise to all outside the
inner councils of the Russian general
staff, as the splendid resistance the
Russians have been offering to the Ger-
man efforts to encircle the city were
believed to be evidence of G. I. Duke
Nicholas's intention to fight it out with
the Teutonic allies.

Russian military critics, after con-
versations with "competent military
authorities," point out, however, that
"until the army is properly equipped to
oppose the perfect Austro-German ma-
chine, the sensible thing to do would
be to avoid battle and withdraw until
the armies are organized and equipped,
and in a condition to take an aggres-
sive offensive and drive the enemy from
Russian soil."

Politics rather than strategy decided
the Russians to advance into East
Prussia and Galicia. It is explained by
the critics, and, while in doing so, they
rendered great service to the western
allies and inflicted terrible losses on
both Austrians and Germans, they may
now give up all and more than they
gained.

COUNTRY WILL BE DENUDED OF RESOURCES

It is anticipated by the Petrograd
papers that the whole country, if
evacuated, will be denuded of resources
which might prove valuable to the Ger-
mans, as has been done in most of the
territory heretofore given up.

The capture of Warsaw naturally
would be made an occasion for great
celebrations in Germany, and it is re-
ported that Emperor William has ar-
ranged to make a state entry into the
city, accompanied by the Empress.
The Emperor has been on a visit to
Field Marshal von Hindenburg's head-
quarters at Allenstein, East Prussia,
and left there yesterday with the
Crown Princess Cecile, for Neidenburg,
which is across the Polish border.

In the meantime, fighting of the
greatest intensity continues around the
Polish triangle, and, as Berlin claims
no important success, except the re-
pulse of Russian attacks, it is pre-
sumed that the Russians are holding
off the Austro-Germans.

In the west there has been little
happening beyond the usual bombard-
ments and sapping, mining and bomb-
ing operations.

FIVE SHIPS DAYS TOLL OF GERMAN SUBMARINES

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]
LONDON, July 29.—Five ships, one
neutral, were reported sunk in the
German submarine campaign against
merchment to-day. The total death
list, it is believed, will reach forty-one.
Thirty vessels are known to have been
sunk by the Germans within the last
three days.

The latest victims were the Belgian
steamer Princess Maria Jose, the Fin-
nish steamers Urania and Leo, the
Swedish bark Fortuna, and the Grims-
by trawler Dovey.

The heaviest loss of life occurred
in the Baltic, where the Urania and
Leo were sent down. Dispatches from
Copenhagen state that the Urania's
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RELIEF FIRST STEP IN MEXICAN CRISIS

U. S. Demands That Food Be
Permitted to Reach Starving
People of Capital.

MUST KEEP RAILROADS OPEN

American Citizen Assaulted by
Zapata Soldiers and Stars and
Stripes Trampled Upon.

WASHINGTON, July 29.—Urgent rep-
resentation demanding, in the name of
humanity, that food be permitted to
reach the starving people of Mexico
City were sent by the State Department
to-night to Generals Carranza, Villa and
Zapata. The notes declare avenues of
transportation to Mexico City must be
opened to provision trains and kept
open.

Although the text of the representa-
tions was not made public, it is known
that the document is a forerunner of
more definite action soon to be taken
in the form of a demand that the Mex-
ican factions end their strife and estab-
lish a constitutional government by
means of a joint conference. Officials
believe General Carranza at Vera Cruz
is in a position to keep the railroad to
Mexico City from Vera Cruz open for
transportation of food beyond Pachuca,
at least, and that either he or Zapata,
in co-operation with Villa, can control
the line beyond that point.

Official reports from Mexico City to-
day said there was actual starvation
there, and that conditions generally
were worse than ever. People of all
classes are suffering for food, although
there is money in plenty to purchase
it.

A message from Vera Cruz detailing
an assault upon an American citizen
near Puebla and violation of the
American flag by Zapata soldiers a
few days ago served to arouse officials
here to the extreme gravity of the
situation.

A new division of Mexican affairs
was created to-day in the State De-
partment. Leon J. Canova was ap-
pointed chief of the new division, which
will handle all diplomatic correspondence
and other business relating to
Mexico hereafter.

DETERMINED EFFORT TO GET SUPPLIES THROUGH

Advices to the American Red Cross
from Charles J. O'Connor, its special
representative directing relief work in
Mexico City, were communicated to Sec-
retary Lansing to-day. He announced
later that a determined effort to get
supplies to the capital would be made.
Mr. O'Connor's message, cabled from
Vera Cruz under date of yesterday, was
as follows:

Scarcity of food is far greater than
it was two weeks ago. It is almost im-
possible to buy corn; vegetables are
far less plentiful than they were two
weeks ago. People are actually dying
of starvation, as I can prove by doc-
tors and nurses. We have had no word
of supplies coming from the states.
Each time we have started to buy any-
thing here some change of government
made a change of plan necessary. We
are ready to distribute food to families,
but have not yet been able to secure
any at a reasonable price. Conditions
are more chaotic than ever, and there
is not a single government official with
whom to deal.

"There is a genuine reign of terror
in Mexico City, in so far as legal pro-
cedure is concerned," read a message
to the department from Vera Cruz
dated July 28, which also detailed an
assault upon Allan Mallory, an Ameri-
can citizen, by Zapata soldiers near
Puebla.

AMERICAN FLAG TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT

Mallory was in an automobile with a
son of the Chilean minister and two
Spaniards. The car en route to the
coast, flew the American flag, and was
carrying diplomatic correspondence.
Near Puebla the automobile was stopped
by a company of Zapata soldiers. The
occupants were pulled out and the
American flag torn from its staff and
trampled upon by the soldiers, who
took Mallory and his companions before
a Zapata officer. They were searched,
their papers taken and the two Span-
iards sentenced to be executed.
Whether sentence was carried out is
not known, the message bearing evi-
dence of having been censored on this
point. Mallory protested against the
sentencing of the Spaniards.

"Keep your mouth shut or you will
be shot," he was told by the officer,
who later released him. An investiga-
tion has been ordered.

Paul Hudson, editor of the Mexican
Herald, and his family, are still pris-
oners in Mexico City, another message
said. Orders for their release, signed
by President Chasero, head of the
Mexican City convention government,
are said to have been ignored, and ap-
peals from American citizens and the
Brazilian minister have been fruitless.
The Villa agency to-night issued a
statement denying the evacuation of
Torreon.

BARS DIAMOND IMPORTS

British Royal Proclamation Excludes
Unset Stones as Precious.

LONDON, July 29.—A royal procla-
mation prohibits the importation into
the United Kingdom of unset diamonds,
except under special license.
This step has been taken presumably
on account of the alleged sale recently
of considerable quantities of German
stones on the English market.

Chief Figures in Connection With Becker Case



Charles Becker.



Mrs. Becker.

MURDER OF ROSENTHAL DONE BY HIRED GUNMEN

It Is Swift Culmination of Sensa-
tional Charges Gambler Made
Against Becker.

CITY AROUSED BY CRIME

Head of Strong-Arm Squad, Suspect-
ed From First, Is Indicted, Given
Two Trials, Convicted and Con-
demned to Death.

NEW YORK, July 30.—Herman Rosen-
thal, the gambler, for whose murder
Charles Becker died in the electric
chair this morning, was shot to death
by hired gunmen in the early morning
of July 16, 1912, in front of the Hotel
Metropole, on Forty-third Street, a few
steps from Broadway. The murder was
the swift culmination of sensational
charges made a few days before by
Rosenthal against Becker, in which
Rosenthal asserted that Becker, then
head of the strong-arm squad of de-
tectives, freely sold police protection
and had accumulated thousands of dol-
lars of graft money.

Rosenthal went further than that.
He swore that Becker was his silent
partner in a gambling enterprise that
failed, and that Becker, angered by
losses where he had expected large
profits, raided the Rosenthal establish-
ment and drove Rosenthal out of busi-
ness by stationing uniformed policemen
on his premises day and night.

ROSENTHAL SUMMONED TO CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING

These charges were published and
District Attorney Whitman began an
investigation of them. He summoned
Rosenthal to the Criminal Courts Build-
ing and listened to his story. An ap-
pointment was made with Rosenthal for
the next day. Before the time came
Rosenthal was murdered.

When the assassins had done their
work they ran across the street, jumped
into a gray automobile which was wait-
ing at the curb and whirled away up-
town. A by-stander caught the license
number of the car.

District Attorney Whitman, notified
by telephone of the murder, reached
the police station where Rosenthal's
body lay before dawn. He aroused his
detectives from their sleep and spread
a dragnet over the city for the murder
car. It was found before night. Its
driver, Louis Shapiro, and Louis Libbey,
part owner, were arrested, and Mr.
Whitman asserted openly in an em-
phatic statement that the police had
aborted the murder.

New York City, already interested in
the charges of police corruption, re-
sponded to the news of the murder as
if to a call to arms. Becker, who had
been the chief target of Rosenthal's
accusations, was openly suspected. He
was relieved of his command of the
strong-arm squad and transferred to
the Bronx. Jack Rose, his graft col-
lector, walked into the Criminal Courts
Building the day after the murder and
surrendered to the district attorney, de-
claring he had nothing to fear. Harry
Vallon and Bridget Weber, gamblers
and friends of Rose and Becker, were
arrested as witnesses. The grand jury
began its investigation.

Rose lay in prison twelve days with-
out word from Becker, and, believing
his chief had deserted him, confessed.
Vallon and Weber corroborated his
story. He told of his long association
with Becker, of police corruption which
existed as Rosenthal had charged, of
thousands collected by Becker for police
protection and, finally, of his commis-
sion by Becker to arrange to have
Rosenthal killed by gunmen—a com-
mission he executed.

That night, July 29, 1912, District At-
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Herman Rosenthal



Gov. Charles S. Whitman

Becker Case Chronology

July 11, 1912—Rosenthal publicly
accuses Lieutenant Charles Becker,
noted leader of the strong arm squad
of gambling raiders, of accepting
graft.

July 12—Rosenthal's affidavit
against Becker published in a Man-
hattan newspaper.

July 15—Rosenthal promises to
tell his story to District Attorney
Whitman and the grand jury the
next day.

July 16—Rosenthal murdered at
157 A. M. in front of the Metropole,
Forty-third Street, just off Broad-
way. Whitman hurries to the scene
and thwarts police efforts to cover
up the trail.

July 17—Shapiro and Libbey, own-
ers of "gray murder car" arrested.
They say Jack Rose hired the car.

July 18—Rose surrenders and is
held for murder.

July 21—Bridget Weber arrested
and is held for murder.

July 22—Harry Vallon surrendered
and is held for murder. Whitman
names the four gunmen as actual
killers.

July 25—Dago Frank arrested.

July 29—Rose, Weber and Vallon
turn State's evidence, accuse Lieut-
enant Charles Becker of instigating
murder, which they procured.
Becker arrested just before mid-
night.

August 1—Whitney Lewis arrested.
August 5—Becker formally pleads
not guilty.

August 10—Sam Schepps arrested
as witness in Hot Springs, Ark., and
returns voluntarily.

August 15—Jack Rose publishes
complete story of murder. He says
he collected \$150,000 in graft for
Becker.

September 14—"Gyp the Blood"
and "Lefty Louie" arrested.

October 7—Becker's trial begins.
October 24—Becker found guilty
of murder in the first degree.

October 30—Becker sentenced to
die during week of December 9, 1912,
put in Sing Sing death house.

November 10—Four gunmen con-
victed of first degree murder.

February 24, 1914—Becker's con-
viction set aside; new trial ordered.
Gunmen's case affirmed.

April 13—Gunmen executed.
May 6—Becker's second trial
called.

May 22—Becker convicted the sec-
ond time and sentenced to die dur-
ing week of July 6.

May 25—Conviction upheld by
higher court and date of execution
set for week beginning July 12.

Retrieval of two weeks granted by
Whitman to allow new motions in
case.

BECKER, ON EVE OF DEATH, REITERATES INNOCENCE

In Letter to Whitman Demands Re-
traction of Statements Re-
flecting on Character.

WHOLLY UNTRUE, HE DECLARES

Shocking to Suspect Governor of
State Could Stoop to Assail With
Unfounded Charges Helpless Man
in Very Shadow of Grave.

OSKISING, N. Y., July 29.—The last
hope of Charles Becker, under sentence
to die early to-morrow morning for
instigating the murder of Herman
Rosenthal, vanished when he was told
to-night that his wife had failed to
move Governor Whitman to grant him
a reprieve. This Mrs. Becker asked of
the Governor at a conference with him
at Poughkeepsie. Failing in her mis-
sion, she motored here to break the
news to her husband, but it had reached
him before she arrived.

Becker, it was said, had not expected
clemency. Almost at the moment the
news was received the prisoner gave
out a letter that he had written to
Governor Whitman, in which he at-
tacked the executive for having, as he
indicated, given to the newspapers
statements which cast a "foul aspersions
on my character," and for which he
demanded a retraction.

REITERATES INNOCENCE OF ROSENTHAL MURDER

In his letter, Becker again reiterated
his innocence of the crime for which
he has been convicted.

The statement follows:
"Sir,—You are credited in the public
press this morning with three state-
ments concerning me, each of them
wholly untrue and unwarranted.

"First, it is said that I offered to
plead guilty to murder in the second
degree. Standing on the brink of the
grave, I ask you solemnly to name the
person to whom I offered to plead
guilty to murder in the second degree
of any crime whatever.

"It would be too shocking to suspect
that the Governor of this State could
stoop to assail with unfounded charges
a helpless man in the very shadow of
death. I prefer to assume that you
have been misled, but I demand, in the
name of justice that you are sworn to
administer, that you state how the mis-
conception was caused, for the state-

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PAYS WITH HIS LIFE IN EXPIATION FOR SHARE IN MURDER

Former Police Lieutenant Protests to Very
Moment of Doom Innocence of Gambler
Rosenthal's Killing and Asks Forgive-
ness for Those Who Have Wrongly
Condemned Him.

DENIES GUILT IN DYING STATEMENT AND PAYS TRIBUTE TO LOYAL WIFE

In Death House at Sing Sing, Former Chief of New
York's Strong-Arm Squad Is Electrocuted—Current
Is Turned On at 5:47 o'Clock, and Life Leaves His
Body Two Minutes Later—He Dies With Cross in
His Hands, and His Last Words Are "Jesus, Have
Mercy on Me."

OSKISING, N. Y., July 30.—Charles Becker paid the penalty
to-day for instigating the murder three years ago of Herman
Rosenthal, the gambler. He was electrocuted in Sing Sing
prison one hour after sunrise. Life left his body at 5:47 o'clock,
two minutes after the electric current was turned on. He died
with a cross in his hands. His last words were: "Jesus, have
mercy on us."

Becker met his death without flinching. He entered the
death chamber with two priests at his side. They were chant-
ing a litany. Becker joined in, repeating, "Have mercy on us,
have mercy on us."

He walked steadily to the death chair, and, taking his seat,
glanced squarely into the eyes of the witnesses for a brief mo-
ment. Then he continued the chant, "Have mercy on us, have
mercy on us."

While the straps were being adjusted the priests chanted a
prayer, which Becker repeated phrase by phrase. In it he con-
signed his soul to the Almighty.

Becker received the electric shock in the midst of the prayer.
One minute later a second shock was sent through his body and
the physician pronounced him dead.

PROCLAIM HIS INNOCENCE IN DYING STATEMENT AND PAYS TRIBUTE TO WIFE, WHO STOOD BY HIM

At 4:30 o'clock Becker gave out the following typewritten statement as
his dying declaration, signed in his own handwriting:

"My Dying Statement.

"Gentlemen:

"I stand before you in my full senses, knowing that no power on earth
can save me from the grave that is to receive me. In the face of that, in
the teeth of those who condemned me, and in the presence of my God and
your God, I proclaim my absolute innocence of the foul crime for which
I must die. You are now about to witness my destruction by the State,
which is organized to protect the lives of the innocent. May Almighty God
pardon every one who has contributed in any degree to my untimely death.
And now, on the brink of my grave, I declare to the world that I am proud
to have been the husband of the purest, noblest woman that ever lived—
Helen Becker. This acknowledgment is the only legacy I can leave her. I
bid you all good-by. Father, I am ready to go. Amen.
(Signed) "CHARLES BECKER."

Becker's Last Hope Is Swept Away When Whitman Refuses Wife's Plea

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., July 29.—In a
dimly lighted room of the Nelson
House here to-night, Mrs. Charles
Becker, whose husband must die to-
morrow morning at Sing Sing for the
murder of Herman Rosenthal, pleaded
futilely with Governor Whitman to
commute her husband's sentence to
life imprisonment.

Weeping slightly, but maintaining
such control that the Governor later
remarked admiringly on her composure,
she based her appeal solely on her be-
lief in her husband's innocence. There
was no offer either by her or John B.
Johnston, one of Becker's attorneys,
who accompanied her, to expose any-
thing in exchange for the convicted
man's life.

"Governor, I know Charlie is no
saint," was her repeated assertion, "but
he is not the foul murderer that he
has been branded."

The Governor was visibly affected,
but he shook his head negatively.

"I cannot," he said, "but I want you
to feel free to tell me everything. If
there is anything that you know that
you have not told that you think would
help your husband, or that I should
know, you may tell it to me now with
the fullest assurance that it will be
regarded as absolutely confidential."

"There is nothing to tell," Mrs.
Becker replied. "I only know he is
innocent."

ATTORNEY APPEALS FOR A REPRIEVE

Prior to seeing Mrs. Becker, the Gov-
ernor conferred with Mr. Johnston.
The attorney appealed for a reprieve,
in order that the case might be taken
to the Court of Appeals, and also
asked the Governor to permit former
Justices Edgar M. Cullen and Charles
Andrews to pass on the appeal for a
commutation or reprieve as specially
appointed commissioners.

The executive declined both requests.
When asked to grant a reprieve, that
new evidence might be submitted, the
Governor said there was none.

The conference here was arranged
only after the telephone wires between
Albany and Camp Whitman, where the
Governor had gone to review the New
York State militia, had been kept busy
for several hours in an attempt to
locate him.

Nearly all day Mrs. Becker main-
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IN DARKENED ROOM

For more than an hour, while Mr.
Johnston pleaded his points of law
with the Governor, Mrs. Becker sat
alone in a darkened room. Mean-
while, the halls outside filled with newspaper
men and photographers and several of
the curious.

Two women walked to the door of
the room Mrs. Becker occupied and
asked her if she would like to talk to
them.

"No," she murmured, "please leave
me alone. That is all I ask."

When the Governor had completed
his conference with Mr. Johnston, the
doors of the room were opened, and
the Governor walked over to Mrs.
Becker. She rose immediately and be-
gan to talk to him.

Mrs. Becker appeared to have her
nerves under better control than did
the Governor. His face was flushed,
his collar wilted and he stood wearily
clapping his hands together when he
saw several newspaper men soon after he
had left her.

"I suppose," he said, very slowly,
"that you want to ask me if I have
seen Mrs. Becker. I have, and I have
told her that I cannot intervene."

Turning then to Mr. Johnston, the
Governor said: "You had better make
a statement now."

Mr. Johnston then explained the
legal points in the case which he had
raised, and the Governor told on what
ground he had refused to consider
them just cause for his interfering
with the execution.

As the Governor finished talking, he
moved over to a chair and sat down
on the arm limply.

"It's been a trying experience for